



Larson Report

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July 2009
E-NEWS

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Personnel (Vice-
Chair)

Parks, Energy and
Environment

Transportation,
Public Works and
Transit

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What would help
make Milwaukee
County Government
more accessible to
you?

Please call me or
send me an email
with your thoughts.

Dear Neighbor,

I hope you are having a wonderful start to your summer and keeping cool during these hot days. Aside from the hot weather, summer in Milwaukee County also brings a lot of great things to do. Milwaukee is known as the “[City of Festivals](#)” and hopefully you and yours will get to enjoy some of the [great festivities](#) Milwaukee County has to offer. And if you’re able to make it to one of the [Chill on the Hill](#) concerts, feel free to come over to me and shoot the breeze, catch up, or just say hi.

I also want to thank everyone who has contacted me regarding the [NACO Prescription Discount Drug Cards](#). This is a great county service and hopefully my [last article](#) in the Bay View Compass helped get the word out about these great savings. If you haven’t gotten your card yet and would like one, contact my office.

In this issue of the Larson Report you’ll find:

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Great Circus Parade Seats are Available

O'Donnell Park VIP Bleacher seats for the Great Circus Parade on July 12 are available [here](#). Family 4 packs of general admission seating or individual general admission seating are available. Parking in the O'Donnell parking structure is also an option. Please call (414) 257-PARK (7275) for telephone orders or visit countyparks.com with any questions. If you want great seats hurry, the deadline is **July 1st**. More than 1 million spectators are anticipated since the parade's last appearance in 2003.

Milwaukee County's Fiscal Status

Earlier this month, the Finance and Audit Committee met for nearly 9 hours. At that meeting, during the last few hours, it was revealed that the County Executive was planning on laying off over 300 positions without any communication with the County Board. Upon further review of his proposed fly by night layoffs, it was revealed that many of these choices would result in a cut in revenue to the County. In some cases this would entirely negate any savings while creating an even further decline in services. In other cases, the proposed cuts could mean that County services such as General Mitchell International Airport would end up losing money for the County and decrease service!

When the Director of Audits and the Fiscal and Budget Analyst reviewed the same information, they came out with a very different projection. Instead of around \$15 million in deficit, it's closer to \$650,000. This means that the huge reduction in services, some of which will end up being more expensive, is not necessary, and a more reasonable approach is needed.

If the normal deliberative processes had taken place, none of this would have been necessary. Instead of wasting our time arguing, we could be working together to best serve the needs of Milwaukee County residents. Hopefully, in future budgets, the County Board and the County Executive can work together and overcome this lack of communication.

Public Hearings for the 2010-2012 Milwaukee County Department on Aging Area

What: A town hall forum for community members to give feedback on the Milwaukee County Department on Aging and the services they provide.

Where: Wilson Park Senior Center, Main Hall 2601 W. Howard Ave., Milwaukee

When: Tuesday, July 14 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Noyes and Pulaski Pools Will Remain Open!

County Executive Scott Walker originally proposed a knee-jerk reaction to cut County services without putting any thought into the impact of these cuts on everyday people. In this case, he wanted to close the Pulaski and Noyes pools until Labor Day. That decision would adversely affect a number of County residents, including senior citizens and children who use these pools for swimming lessons. Many of these individuals found out about Walker's closures when they tried to attend their daily swim lessons, only to see a closed sign posted on the door.

Ironically, moments before a public rally expressing outrage at Walker's decision to close the pools, he reversed his stance.

A special thanks to Supervisors Dimitrijevic, Thomas, Weishan, and the over 100 Milwaukee County residents who showed up at the rally to keep the pools open. Without all of us coming together in solidarity, we might have lost access to two very important pools this summer.

Bikes on Buses was a Success and the Anti-Dooring Law Passed

The [Bikes on Buses Launch Event](#) was a glowing success! Thanks again to Supervisors Jursik, Dimitrijevic, and Mayo, Shea and everyone else at the [BFW](#), and everyone else who worked on this great project. It was a beautiful day, about 40 bike enthusiasts showed up, and Supervisor Jursik and I were able to try the bike racks out ourselves. The whole process takes less than 30 seconds and has already gotten very positive feedback from residents who have used them.

If you'd like to learn more about the Bikes on Buses program click [here](#).

Also...

On Monday, June 8, 2009, Gov. Jim Doyle signed into law a bill that requires occupants of parked vehicles to check for cyclists before opening their doors. Failure to do so will result in a \$40 fine for the first offense. Eighteen other states have laws requiring drivers to make sure it's safe before they open car doors.

This is a small but positive step toward making Wisconsin more friendly and accessible to cyclists. In fact, Wisconsin has been named one of the nation's top four bicycle-friendly states. One of the benefits to being such a bicycle-friendly state is that, if the 2016 Olympics are held in Chicago, Wisconsin would be the site of the 2016 Olympic Cycling Competition.

As always, cyclists should take great caution when passing parked vehicles.

July Park Happenings

- The Kite store in Veterans Park, will sponsor our 18th annual Fireworks Kite Festival, featuring the Giant Kites of Yves LaForest, from Montreal, Quebec. The goal is to fill the sky with as many kites as possible. Times from 11:00 a.m. until 6:30 p.m., or later depending on wind conditions. Gift of Wings, along with the Kite Society of Wisconsin has been flying kites at this event for 18 years. For more information, contact Scott Fisher at 414/305-3145 or www.giftofwings.com
- All Milwaukee County Golf Courses are open at this time. To make a reservation call (414) 475-6222.
- **Weekend foursomes** for all golfers playing 18-holes with a cart for \$100 or 9-holes with a cart for \$60 at Currie, Dretzka, Grant, Greenfield, Lincoln, Oakwood, and Whitnall courses. **Great discount specials** will continue all year for seniors, sunset golf, and weekday rates after 2p.m.
- On Wednesday, July 1st the Terry Sims Band will perform at Washington Park from 6:30 – 8:30pm.
- **The new David F. Schulz Aquatic Center** is now open. Hours of operation are Monday-Thursday 10a.m. – 8p.m. and Friday-Sunday 10a.m. – 6pm. Admission is \$6.75 for 12 and up & \$5 for ages 11 and under.
- **Cool Waters Aquatic Water Park** is open in Greenfield Park Monday – Thursday from 10a.m. – 8p.m. and Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Holidays from 10a.m. – 6p.m. Admission is \$6.75 for 12 and up & \$5 for ages 11 and under.
- **Deep-well Milwaukee County Pools** are open (with the exception of Sheridan pool that is closed for repairs) from 1 – 4p.m. and 5 – 7p.m. Monday – Thursday and 1 – 5p.m. Friday – Sunday. Outdoor pool admission will be \$2.50 for adults and \$2 for children ages 11 and under. For more information call the Aquatics Office at (414) 257-8098.
- **Bradford Beach**, 2400 N. Lincoln Memorial Dr., A 4th of July Beach Party will take place from 10a.m. – 10p.m. with volleyball and multiple beach activities. For more information go to bradfordbeachjam.com
- **Enjoy a Friday Night Fish fry** in beautiful surroundings every Friday thru Labor Day at the Whitnall, Brown Deer, Grant, and Greenfield Park Golf Courses from 4 – 8p.m. The menu includes: • Baked Cod • Fried Cod - hand-rolled in homemade batter and fried to a crisp golden brown Included with your Fish Fry • French Fries or Garlic Diced Red Potatoes • Cole Slaw • Marble Rye • Cake Traditional

- **The Mitchell Park Domes**, 524 S. Layton Boulevard, has opened its Summer Show, “Summer in Provence,” that will continue through Sept. 13. See a portion of the French countryside represented in blooming florals and colors with a fountain, provencal shop, lavender and sunflowers at the Domes. New weekend hours at the Domes are 9a.m. – 4p.m. Weekday hours are 9a.m. – 5p.m. For more information call the Domes at (414) 649-9830.
- **Buy fresh produce from a Wisconsin farm.** Vendors offer seasonal produce, plants, cut flowers and baked goods. Farmers markets have opened at Cathedral Square, 520 E. Wells St. Saturday mornings from June – October; Washington Park, 4420 W. Vliet St. Sundays 11am – 3pm through Oct. 18; Zeidler Union Square, 301 W. Michigan St. 10a.m. – 3p.m. through Oct. 28.
- **Bartolotta's Restaurant Group provides a Sunday Brunch** from 10:00a.m. – 1:30p.m. at Boerner Botanical Gardens year round. For reservations call (414) 525-5635.

4TH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS!

Join friends and family in honor of America's 223rd birthday this year at an annual 4th of July Celebration. Both Humboldt and Wilson Park will have parades as well as daylong celebrations.

For the details of Humboldt Park's celebration check out:

<http://www.mkedcd.org/july4th/pdfs/HumboldtParkJuly4.pdf>

For the details of Wilson Park's celebration check out:

<http://www.mkedcd.org/july4th/pdfs/WilsonParkJuly4.pdf>

The US Bank Fireworks will take place on the eve of July 3 at dusk (approximately 9:15p.m.) at Veteran's Park on the downtown lakefront and will last about one hour.

Chill on the Hill

Join me this month on Tuesday evenings for Humboldt Park's family-friendly atmosphere, outdoor beauty, and great concert series “[Chill on the Hill](#),” the evening starts at 6 p.m. and finishes around 8:30 p.m.

Here are the concerts for July:

- July 7 – Christopher's Project (no relation).
- July 14 – Lumberhorn
- July 21 – Sue DeBaco and Wise Fools
- July 28 – Swing Nouveau

Did you know?

*Did you know that in 2008 the Milwaukee County Transit System provided over **160,000** rides on an average weekday? That's what I call a busy bus system!*

Free “Safe-Swim” Swimming Lessons and Summer Pool Hours

Thanks to the generosity of the Northwestern Mutual Foundation, the Parks Department is pleased to continue our “safe swimming” efforts by offering free swimming lessons for county residents at many of our pools this summer.

The lessons begin on Saturday, June 20th and take place every Saturday (except July 4th) thru August 22nd from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM at the following pools:

Grobschmidt	Hales Corners
Holler	Jackson
McCarty	Pelican Cove (Kosciusko)
Sheridan	Washington
Wilson	

This information is also listed on www.countyparks.com under ‘Water-based Recreation’ and then “Swimming Lessons”.

MCTS is Your Ride to Summerfest

Going to Summerfest this year? Want a safe, reliable, and convenient ride? Hop on board the Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS), your [stress-free ride to Summerfest](#).

MCTS offers several choices for those wanting an [easy and convenient route to Summerfest](#), Thursday, June 25th to Sunday, July 5th. Riders can drive or take a bus to the downtown area and take a Shuttle to the Summerfest North Gate. Those farther out can park at one of 11 park-ride lots and take a [Freeway Flyer](#) to the Summerfest Mid-Gate.

For additional route, schedule or fare information, call the MCTS BusLine at (414) 344-6711. Automated recorded information is available 24 hours a day while information agents are available weekdays from 6a.m. to 7p.m. and weekends from 8a.m. until 4:30p.m., or visit RideMCTS.com.

Graffiti in Our Parks

Recently there has been a spate of graffiti attacks on our parks. We must remain vigilant against this kind of public property defacing. When a few “taggers” get the idea that this type of behavior will be tolerated, more are sure to come, but if we take action quickly, we can stop a lot of this vandalism before it starts.

If you see any suspicious behavior or new graffiti going up please don't hesitate to call local law enforcement and my office. The quicker we know about these problems, the quicker we can solve them.



Above is a picture of Humboldt Park pavilion before concerned neighborhood citizens and I came together to repaint it. As a community we can come together and solve these problems as they arise.

July Neighborhood Group Meetings:

Bay View Neighborhood Association

Contact: Patty Thompson at (414) 403-8003 or (414) 297-9783

bayviewneighborhood@gmail.com

<http://www.bayviewneighborhood.org>

Citizens Crime Analysis Meeting

When: Thursday, July 23, 6-7 p.m.

Where: District 2 Police Station - 245 West Lincoln Avenue

Town of Lake Neighborhood Association

Contact: Paul Gessner at (414) 482-2261

When: Thursday, July 9, 2009 at 6:30pm

Where: 4001 S. 6th Street (at the Water Tower)

Wilson Park Neighborhood Association

No July Meeting

Oklahoma Gardens Neighborhood Association

Contact: Wendy Safron at (414) 643-0766

No meeting in July

Holt Park Neighborhood Association

Contact: Diane Kosarzycki

(414) 645-1967 (home) dianekosarzycki@att.net

July Meeting

When: July 21st 6:30 – 8:30p.m.

Where: Wheaton Franciscan Hospital

Tippecanoe Park Watch

Contact: 278-4252

No Meeting in July

City Meadows Neighborhood Association

Contact: Cindi Herzog at (414) 817-8000

<http://www.Citymeadows.org>

Contact Cindi for information regarding the July Meeting

Garden District Neighborhood Association

Contact: Michael Murphy at (414) 364-8762

July Meeting

When: Tuesday, July 14, 6:30p.m.

Where: 1122 W Boden Ct. 2nd Floor Conference Room

Uncas Park Neighborhood Association

Contact: Connie Wilson

(414)759-9009 (cell) or (414) 762-6959 (home)

July Meeting

When: Tuesday, July 14, 6:30p.m.

Where: House of Hamburg, 5937 S Howell Ave.

Airport Gardens Neighborhood Association

Contact: Perry Buck

(414) 747-2470 (home) or (414) 759-1189 (cell)

Meetings will be postponed until September 21st

Holler Park Neighborhood Association

Contact: President, Chris Kuester at 769-1815

July Meeting

When: Monday, July 27, 7:00p.m.

Where: Holler Park Easter Seals Pavilion

Humboldt Park Neighborhood Association

Contact: Ruth Simos at (414) 483-9330 r.simos@sbcglobal.net

Call Ruth for meeting information

Supervisor Larson Working on Your Behalf



Supervisor Larson participating in the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce's "Madison Night" in Milwaukee.



Supervisor Larson speaking at the Pulaski Park news conference opposing the County Executive's attempt to close Pulaski and Noyes pools.



Supervisor Larson loads his bicycle onto the front of a Milwaukee County Transit System bus. The "Bikes on Buses" program was officially launched in June 2009.